

Governor's Upper Yellowstone River Task Force
Meeting Summary
February 15, 2000
Livingston Depot Center
Meeting began at 7:00 p.m.

I. Introductions

Members Present:

John Bailey, Chair	David Haug
Mike Atwood	Tom Lane
Roy Aserlind	Bob Wiltshire
Andy Dana, Proxy for Jerry O'Hair	Ellen Woodbury
Michelle Goodwine	Jim Woodhull

Others Present:

Joel Tohtz, Ex-Officio	Pete Schaoe	Jim Robinson
John Logan, Ex-Officio	Franklin Rigler	Jerry Johnson
Wayne Brewster, Ex-Officio	Drew Overholser	Ken Weaver
Laurence Siroky, Ex-Officio	Bernard Adams	Burt Williams
Stan Sternberg, Proxy Ex-Officio	John Kirby	Dennis Glick
Stuart Lehman, Ex-Officio	Lionel Dicharry	Stan Todd
Liz Galli-Noble, Coordinator	Don Freeman	Mark Albers
Amy Miller, Administrative Secretary	Pete Story	Adam Craig
Al Zale	Shiell Anderson	

Prior Meeting Minutes

The January 12, 2000 minutes were approved as written.

III. Announcements

1999 Annual Report

The Annual Report has been completed, and copies are available at Liz Galli-Noble's office located in the USDA building south of Livingston.

Financial Updates (grant spending and new allocations)

1. John Bailey reported that the Task Force has been approved for the second 319 Grant from the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) to fund the coordinator position for one year at \$58,000; the grant request was for \$172,800. Stuart Lehman, DEQ, explained that the 319-Grant program typically funds for water pollution plans (for example, Total Maximum Daily Load efforts), and the Task Force's proposal was not a good match for the program. Therefore, the grant committee only funded one year for the coordinator position. The grant will be available in June of 2000.
2. John Bailey, Liz Galli-Noble, and Jim Robinson met with Mark Simonich, DEQ Director, on February 14, 2000 and asked for additional funding to replace the Start-Up grant when the funds are spent. The Start-Up grant funds came from 1996 Fiscal Year, and will need to be spent in a year or so

(other grants are still open from 1996 Fiscal Year) in order for the DEQ to close that Fiscal Year budget.

Bailey asked Simonich if the Task Force should apply for another Reclamation Development Grant through the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC). The RDG grant is due May 31, 2000 and grant allocations are up to \$300,000. Bailey presented a summary of the Task Force's immediate research funding shortfalls (totaling \$500,000).

Simonich suggested the possibility of adding a line item on the DEQ or DNRC (WRD) state budget specifically for the Task Force operating expenses (coordinator position and office operations). He requested that Bailey and Galli-Noble put together a list of those expenses for his review. Finally, Bailey also requested that Simonich talk to the Governor, in order to clarify the financial role of noticeably absent state agency such as Fish Wildlife & Parks.

John Bailey reported that a funding meeting was scheduled for February 23, 2000 in Bozeman at the Federal Building. Those present will be Mike Gilbert, US Army Corps of Engineers, John Bailey, Mike Atwood, Liz Galli-Noble, Jim Robinson, and Montana Congressional delegation representatives. The meeting will also focus on immediate and long-term funding needs of the Task Force.

3. Grant spending report

Amy Miller reported on the following to the Task Force:

Start-Up Grant-DEQ	Grant amount: \$49,138.00	Spent: \$18,298.10	Balance: \$30,839.90
319 Grant (1)-DEQ	Grant amount: \$40,000.00	Spent: \$16,888.32	Balance: \$23,111.68
RDGP-DNRC	Grant amount: \$299,940.00	Spent: \$44,271.36	Balance: \$255,668.64
319 Grant (2)-DEQ	Grant amount: \$58,000.00	Spent: \$-0-	Balance: \$58,000.00

The grant balances reflect expenses through February 1, 2000.

IV. Socio-economic Assessment

Drs. Ken Weaver and Jerry Johnson, MSU Local Government Center, had been invited back by the Task Force to give a presentation on socio-economic assessments. As a way to get feedback on what the Task Force needed from an assessment, Ken had mailed a questionnaire to Task Force members a couple of weeks before this meeting. He began his presentation by distributing and reviewing the questionnaire and the responses he received to Task Force members. He only made enough copies for Task Force members due to client confidentiality. John Bailey explained that the Task Force shares all information with the public, and Task Force members shared the limited copies with the public. We are also enclosing copies of the handouts (*Preliminary Assessment of the Upper Yellowstone River Task Force Social Science Research Priorities*) as attachments with these minutes. In reviewing the material from the Local Government Center, questions and concerns about stakeholders arose. Ken explained the difficulty in gathering social and economic information from **all** stakeholders on the Yellowstone River. John Bailey explained that the Task Force does not exclude anyone and that the Task Force operates by consensus; exclusion could stop the process. John Bailey suggested that the Task Force request help from the Technical Advisory Committee in choosing the stakeholders, however, Bob Wiltshire expressed the need for the Task Force members to handle this portion of the study.

Further comments pointed out that the Technical Advisory Committee did not have a social or economic scientist represented. Ken then reviewed a socio-economic assessment pre-proposal developed by the Local Government Center for the Task Force (*Governor's Upper Yellowstone River Task Force Socio-economic assessment see attachment*). John Bailey chose a subcommittee consisting of David Haug, Michelle Goodwine, Ellen Woodbury, Liz Galli-Noble, and Mike Atwood as the Chair, to discuss the Task Force's needs from a socio-economic assessment and develop clearer objectives that could be shared with researchers designing the study. The subcommittee will report back to the Task Force at our next meeting.

The Local Government Center was asked to investigate the building of an Upper Yellowstone River Task Force web page by the Task Force at our January 12, meeting. They presented a prototype to the Task Force and requested permission and funds to continue. The Task Force did not make a decision on the web page.

V. Landowner Permission

Having been given edits and comments on a 2000 field season landowner access permission letter in November of 1999, Liz Galli-Noble presented a revised letter to the Task Force requesting input. The letter will be slightly modified according to the comments made at this meeting, and John Bailey will approve the final copy. Because our spring and summer research areas are less extensive than were once thought, Liz will mail the letters according to the area those specific researchers needs. Liz reported that Park Electric has agreed to allow the Task Force to use their automated phone system for contacting landowners, the Task Force did not make a decision on the phone system at this time.

VI. 2000 Workshops

The Task Force formally discussed hosting educational workshops in 2000, for outreach in the community. The Task Force would like the workshops to be half day, on Saturdays or weekday evenings. After discussing several possible workshop topics, the Task Force chose to do a fire workshop in April or May 2000. Wayne Brewster, Yellowstone National Park, and Phil Farnes (retired NRCS hydrologist) have agreed to help Liz organize this effort. Drew Overholser, Montana Watercourse Wetlands Workshop Coordinator, has agreed to work with the Task Force on a wetland/floodplain management workshop. Liz and partners with present outlines for both workshops at the next Task Force meeting.

VII. Schedule Future Task Force Meetings

Liz Galli-Noble would like Task Force members to call her at 222-3701 if they will be unable to attend scheduled meetings.

Next meetings are:

March 21, 2000 Tuesday 7 pm at the Depot Center.

April 18, 2000 Tuesday 7 pm at the Depot Center.

IX. The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Please make note that the location of our next few meetings has changed. The Task Force will be meeting in Depot Center on

Park Street next to Martin's Cafe. Entrance doors to the 1st floor main room are located on the track side of the building (North side).